

R 261254Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY YEREVAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4112
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YEREVAN 002697

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: [PINS](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [AM](#) [TU](#)
SUBJ: PKK "SUPPORT" FROM ARMENIAN SOURCES

REFS: A) STATE 220237 B) YEREVAN 1701 C) YEREVAN 0165

11. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

12. REFTEL (A) ASKED FOR A REPORT ON "POSSIBLE PKK-ARMENIAN" LINKS AND INSTRUCTED EMBASSY YEREVAN TO "CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND TO KEEP US INFORMED." WE RAISED THE SUBJECT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAPAZYAN JULY 26 AND HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED THE SAME THING BY JOURNALISTS DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE U.S. HIS ANSWER IS (AND WAS) THAT "THERE ARE NO LINKS OF ANY KIND BETWEEN THE PKK AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ARMENIA, ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SUCH LINKS BETWEEN CERTAIN OPPOSITION GROUPS SUCH AS THE DASHNAKS." WHEN WE ASKED HIM WHETHER HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE DASHNAKS HERE OR THOSE AT PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN ATHENS, HE REPLIED "THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE."

13. THIS REPLY IS CONSISTENT WITH RESPONSES WE HAVE GOTTEN FROM SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS FOR MORE THAN A YEAR NOW, NOT ONLY REGARDING THE PKK BUT ALSO REGARDING ALL SORTS OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, AND PARTICULARLY THE ASALA. REFTEL (B) WAS THIS EMBASSY'S ATTEMPT TO TRACK DOWN THE BASIS OF RUMORS IN TURKEY ABOUT A PKK MAGAZINE BEING PUBLISHED IN ARMENIA. IT TURNS OUT THAT THE MAGAZINE ONLY PUBLISHED TWO ISSUES, THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE KURDS IN ARMENIA ARE NON-MUSLIM (AND APOLITICAL) YEZIDIS, AND THAT THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THIS MAGAZINE - ALTHOUGH PRONE TO EXAGGERATE THE LEVEL OF POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AMONG ARMENIA'S SMALL KURDISH COMMUNITY - ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS NO PKK ACTIVITY INSIDE ARMENIA. (COMMENT: THIS MAKES SENSE; AT A TIME WHEN THE GOA IS TRYING TO DO ALL WITHIN ITS POWER TO ACHIEVE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, WHY WOULD IT WANT TO PROVOKE TURKEY BY ALLOWING PKK ACTIVITY WITHIN ITS BORDERS? FURTHERMORE, THE GOA IS MAKING A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO CONFISCATE WEAPONRY OF ALL TYPES FROM CIVILIANS AND PUT IT INTO THE HANDS OF THE "PROPER" AUTHORITIES; WHY WOULD IT COUNTENANCE THE TRAINING OF TERRORISTS WHO COULD ONE DAY BE TURNED AGAINST ANY TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY?)

14. REFTEL (C) WAS AN OFFER TO DEMARCHE THE GOA ABOUT THE ALEGED PKK PRESENCE IN A SPECIFIC REGION AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY BAKU IN BAKU 0070. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, THE DEPARTMENT NEVER REPLIED TO THIS MESSAGE. BUT WE HAVE BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF TERRORISM ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH A RANGE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS, ALL OF WHOM CONDEMN THE ASALA AND ALL OF ITS COUSINS IN THE TERRORIST WORLD. THEIR ONE REGRET IN THIS AREA IS THAT -- AS THEY SEE IT -- THERE IS PRECIOUS LITTLE THEY CAN DO IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DASHNAKS LIVING IN IRAN WANT TO FINANCE, TRAIN, OR EQUIP TERRORIST UNITS OPERATING - ILLEGITIMATELY AND IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO GOA POLICY - IN THE NAME OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE.

GILMORE